KID COLT OUTLAW

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KID COLT OUTLAW

THE STRANGEST FOE THE KID HAS EVER FACED...

"THE GHOST OF MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN!"

A NOVEL-LENGTH THRILLER IN TWO SMASHING CHAPTERS!

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KID COLT OUTLAW

"THE GHOST of MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN!"

SO THIS IS THE TOWN OF RED ROCK... AND THAT MUST BE MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN YONDER! I HEARD TELL HOW THAT MOUNTAIN IS SUPPOSED TO BE HAUNTED! SOME DAY, MAYBE I'LL--
WHA--? THOSE JASPERS COMIN' TOWARD ME! THEY'RE SHOOTIN' AT ME! BUT THEY DON'T LOOK LIKE A POSSE!
BLAM!
CRACK!

CHAPTER ONE:

"TRAPPED ON MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN!"

MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN! FOR MILES AROUND, THE VERY MENTION OF THAT NAME BROUGHT SHIVERS RUNNING DOWN THE SPINES OF THE BRAVEST MEN IN RED ROCK! MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN, WHERE NO MAN DARED TO SPEND A NIGHT! MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN, HOME OF GHOSTS, AND STRANGE SPIRITS FROM ANOTHER WORLD! HOW WOULD MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN AFFECT THE LIFE OF KID COLT? LET'S FIND OUT...

Stan Lee and JACK KELLER

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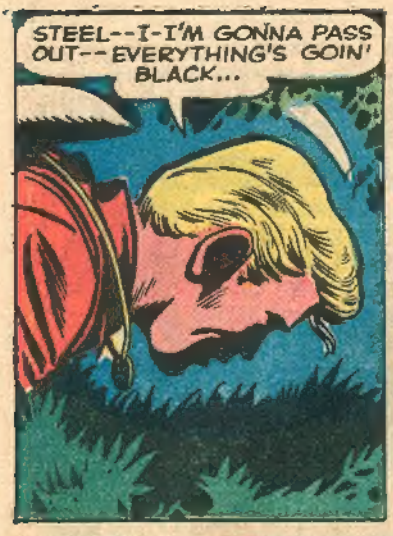
TAKEN BY SURPRISE, BEFORE THE KID COULD FIRE BACK, ONE OF THE SPEEDING HORSEMEN'S BULLETS STRUCK THE LEAN ADVENTURER IN HIS SHOULDER...
UGH! MY SHOULDER...
YUH HIT THAT HOMBRE, CALEB!
HE SHOULDA KEPT OUTTA OUR WAY!
STOP TALKIN' AND RIDE!
STEEL BOY, NOBODY RIDES THAT FAST 'LESS'N SOMEONE'S CHASING 'EM, AND IF THERE'S A POSSE COMIN', I DON'T WANT 'EM TO FIND ME HERE!
THAT'S IT, FELLA! PULL ME OVER TO THE SIDE OF THE ROAD--BEHIND THOSE BUSHES! HURRY, BOY!
NOT A MINUTE TOO SOON! I WAS RIGHT! HERE COMES A POSSE NOW!
IT'S NO USE, SHERIFF! WE'LL NEVER FIND 'EM!
MEBBE NOT, BUT WE'RE SHORE GONNA KEEP TRYIN'!



IT MAY HAVE BEEN MINUTES LATER--OR MAYBE **HOURS**--BUT WHEN THE KID FINALLY OPENED HIS EYES AGAIN, HE SAW A SIGHT HE HADN'T SEEN MANY TIMES BEFORE IN HIS DRAMATIC LIFE! THE BARS OF A PRISON CELL... FROM **INSIDE** THE CELL!

WHA-WHAT HAPPENED? WHERE AM I? IT-IT'S A **CELL!**
I THOUGHT YUH'D **NEVER** WAKE UP, KID! TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT THIS CELL! YOU'RE GONNA BE SEEIN' A **LOT** OF IT FROM NOW ON!

MY SHOULDER! WHAT--?
LIE DOWN THERE, HOMBRE! YOU'RE LUCKY! THE DOC WAS ABLE TO GIT THE BULLET OUT AND PATCH YUH UP LIKE NEW!
LET'S STOP WASTIN' TIME, SHERIFF! LET **ME** MAKE HIM TELL US WHERE HIS **PARTNERS** ARE HIDIN'!

PARDS? **WHAT** PARDS?
DON'T TRY TO PLAY INNOCENT WITH **US**, KID! WE KNOW NOW THAT YOU'RE THE HEAD OF THE GANG THAT'S BEEN ROBBIN' OUR BANK AND OUR HOMES IN THESE PARTS! I SHOULDA GUESSED THERE WOULD **HAVETA** BE SOME BIG OPERATOR LIKE KID COLT BEHIND IT!

SHERIFF, I DON'T LIKE THE LOOK OF THE MOB OUTSIDE! THEY'RE GETTIN' KINDA MEAN!
WHAT ARE WE **WAITIN'** FOR? WE CAUGHT KID COLT! LET'S **PUNISH** 'IM NOW!
WE'LL MAKE 'IM RETURN THAT MONEY TO US!
YEAH! JUST LET US AT 'IM!
SHERIFF
3

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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M-215

M-234

M-519

M-535

M-571

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M-511

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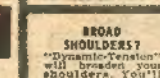

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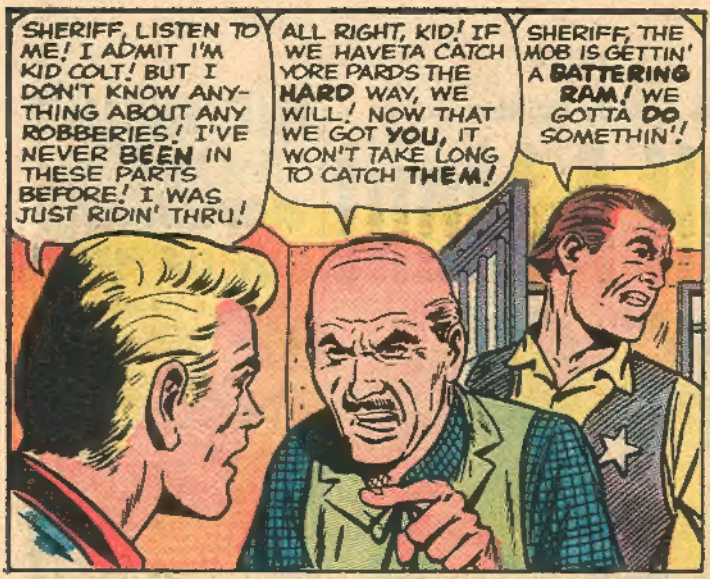
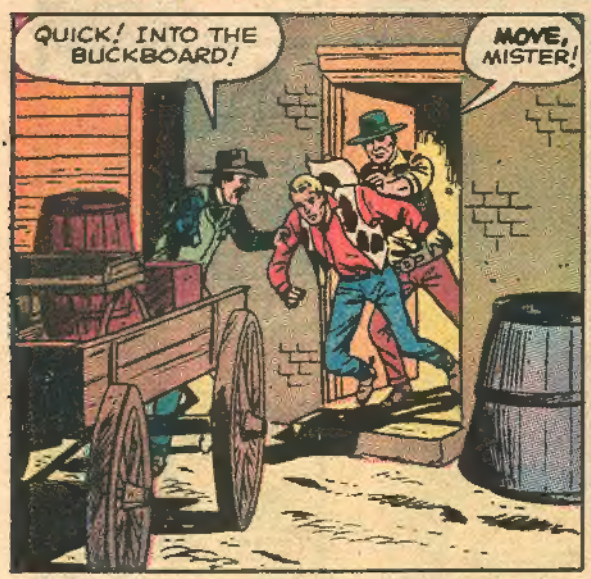
CHARLES ATLAS ON TV

THE INSULT THAT MADE A MAN OUT OF 'MAC'

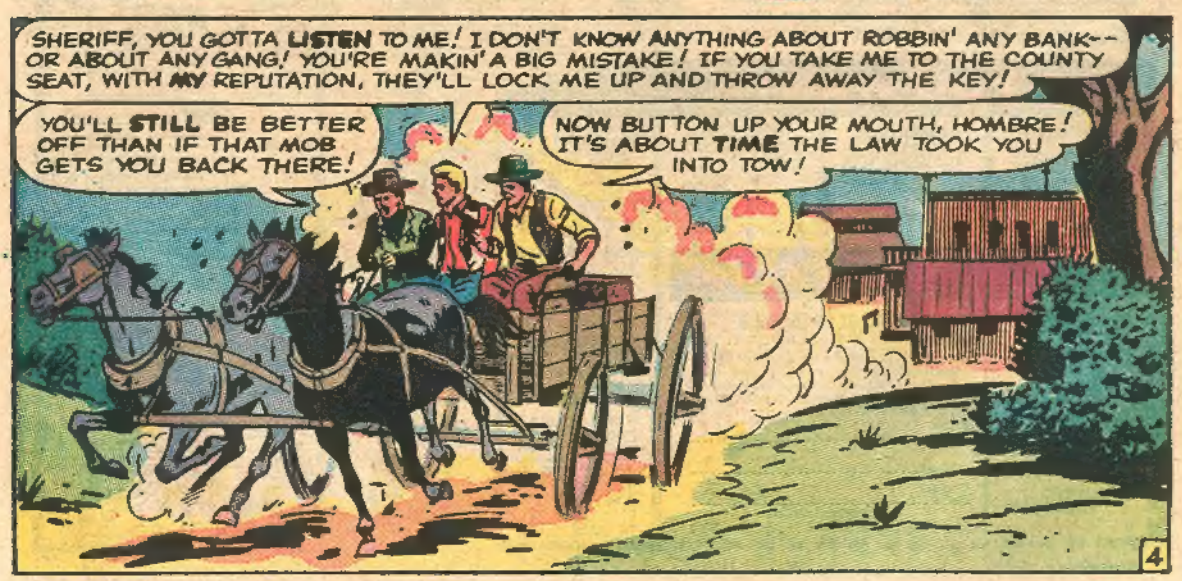
HEY! QUIT KICKING THAT SAND IN OUR FACES!
THAT MAN IS THE WORST NUISANCE ON THE BEACH
LISTEN MUSC. I'D SMASH YOUR FACE — ONLY YOU'RE SO SKINNY YOU MIGHT DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
THE BIG BULLY! I'LL GET EVEN SOME DAY
OH DON'T LET IT BOTHER YOU, LITTLE BOY!
DARN IT! I'M SICK AND TIRED OF BEING A SCARECROW! CHARLES ATLAS SAYS HE CAN GIVE ME A REAL BODY. ALL RIGHT! I'LL GAMBLE A STAMP AND GET HIS FREE BOOK!
BOY! IT DIDN'T TAKE ATLAS LONG TO DO THIS FOR ME! WHAT MUSCLES! THAT BULLY WON'T SHOVE ME AROUND AGAIN!
THERE'S THAT BIG STIFF AGAIN, SHOWING OFF IN FRONT OF GRACE AND THE CROWD. WELL, IT'S MY TURN ... THIS TIME!
WHAM! — NOW IT'S YOUR TURN TO DRY UP AND BLOW AWAY!
OH, MAC! YOU ARE A REAL MAN AFTER ALL!

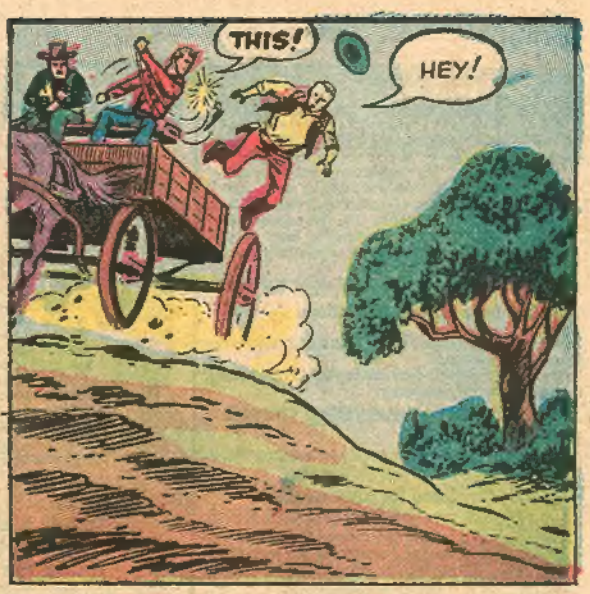

SHERIFF, LISTEN TO ME! I ADMIT I'M KID COLT! BUT I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ANY ROBBERIES! I'VE NEVER BEEN IN THESE PARTS BEFORE! I WAS JUST RIDIN' THRU!
ALL RIGHT, KID! IF WE HAVE TA CATCH YORE PARDS THE HARD WAY, WE WILL! NOW THAT WE GOT YOU, IT WON'T TAKE LONG TO CATCH THEM!
SHERIFF, THE MOB IS GETTIN' A BATTERING RAM! WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'!

QUICK, WE'LL DUCK OUT THE BACK DOOR WITH THE KID AND TAKE HIM TO THE COUNTY SEAT! NO ORNERY MOB IS GONNA GET MY PRISONER FROM ME!
YOU HEARD THE SHERIFF, MISTER! GET MOVIN'!


QUICK! INTO THE BUCKBOARD!
MOVE, MISTER!

OPEN UP! WE KNOW YORE IN THERE!
BY THE TIME THEY REALIZE WHAT'S HAPPENED, WE'LL BE HALF WAY TO THE COUNTY SEAT!


SHERIFF, YOU GOTTA LISTEN TO ME! I DON'T KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT ROBBIN' ANY BANK-- OR ABOUT ANY GANG! YOU'RE MAKIN' A BIG MISTAKE! IF YOU TAKE ME TO THE COUNTY SEAT, WITH MY REPUTATION, THEY'LL LOCK ME UP AND THROW AWAY THE KEY!
YOU'LL STILL BE BETTER OFF THAN IF THAT MOB GETS YOU BACK THERE!
NOW BUTTON UP YOUR MOUTH, HOMBRE! IT'S ABOUT TIME THE LAW TOOK YOU INTO TOW!



THE KID'S WONDERFUL INBORN SENSE OF TIMING HAD MADE HIM PICK THE PERFECT SECOND FOR AN ATTACK! THE SHERIFF **HAD** TO HOLD ONTO THE REINS AT THAT INSTANT, FOR THE BUCKBOARD WAS GOING AROUND A DANGEROUS HAIRPIN TURN IN THE ROAD! AND THAT WAS ALL THE KID NEEDED TO GIVE HIM THE CHANCE TO REACH FOR THE LAWMAN'S OWN GUN!

NO **WONDER** PEOPLE FEAR ME SO, IF **THAT'S** THE KIND OF REPUTATION THAT'S GROWN UP AROUND ME! I'VE **NEVER** SHOT A MAN EXCEPT IN SELF-DEFENSE, SHERIFF! AND EVEN **THEN,** I AIM ONLY TO WING 'EM!
NO, YOU CAN GO BACK AND PICK UP YOUR DEPUTY NOW! WITH **STEEL** UNDER ME, YOU'LL NEVER CATCH ME AGAIN!

HE'S **RIGHT!** NOTHIN' ON FOUR LEGS COULD CATCH THAT GREY BOLT OF LIGHTNING! WELL, MEBBE **I** LOST HIM -- BUT AT LEAST THE **MOB** DIDN'T GET 'IM!
RIDE, STEEL BOY! **AWAY!**
5

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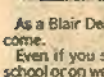

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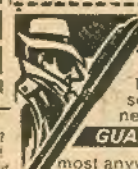

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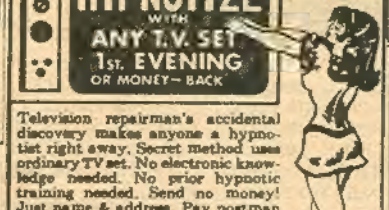

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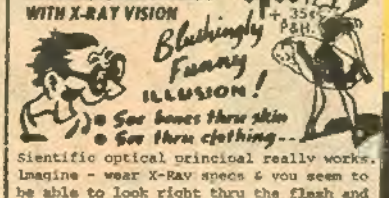

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A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER...
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RECKON THERE'S ONLY ONE THING WE CAN DO--
THE ONE PLACE NO ONE WILL COME AFTER US IS-- MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN! IF MY GUNS WON'T KEEP HOMBRES AWAY, THE FEAR OF GHOSTS SURE WILL!
BRRR, I CAN SEE HOW THIS PLACE GOT A REP FOR BEIN' HAUNTED! EVERYTHING ABOUT IT SEEMS COLD AND EERIE! YOU CAN ALMOST FEEL UNSEEN EYES UPON YOU!
SUDDENLY, WITHOUT WARNING, STEEL REARS BACK NERVOUSLY, WHINNYING IN FEAR!
STEEL! YOU NEVER DID THAT BEFORE! WHAT IS IT, BOY?? WHAT DO YOU SEE?
NEIGHHH!
THAT'S IT! THAT BLACK SHADOW! COMIN' TOWARD US! B-BUT WHAT IS IT? WHAT CAN BE CAUSIN' IT? NOTHING IS MOVING HERE --EXCEPT US?
NEIGHHH!
THIS CAVE! LET'S DUCK INTO HERE UNTIL WE CAN FIGGER OUT WHAT'S HAPPENING! I-I DON'T LIKE ANY OF THIS! I'VE NEVER BEEN AFEARED OF MEN FACIN' ME! BUT WHAT DO YOU DO AGAINST THINGS YOU CAN'T SEE...OR TOUCH?
6

IT'S MIGHTY DARK IN HERE, BUT I RECKON I'M A MITE TOO OLD TO START BEING SCARED OF THE DARK!
RRRRRR
WHAT'S THAT?
THAT ROCK! IT'S STARTIN' TO COVER THE CAVE MOUTH! WE'LL BE TRAPPED IN HERE!
IT'S NO USE! I CAN'T BUDGE IT! BUT HOW DID IT MOVE? I DIDN'T SEE A LIVIN' SOUL! AND A ROCK CAN'T MOVE ITSELF!
SUDDENLY, THE KID'S FANTASTIC SIXTH-SENSE MADE HIM WHEEL ABOUT AGAIN! ALTHOUGH HE HEARD NOTHING-- ALTHOUGH HE SAW NOTHING-- KID COLT KNEW THAT HE AND STEEL WERE NOT ALONE IN THAT CAVE!
?
SOMEONE'S THERE! I KNOW IT! WHO IS IT? SPEAK UP! SPEAK OR I'LL SHOOT!
FOOL! YOUR BULLETS WOULD BE USELESS ... AGAINST ME!
A--GHOST!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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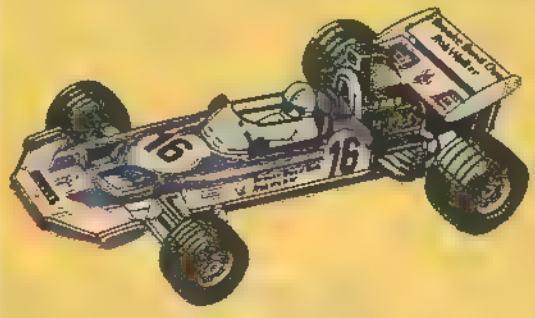

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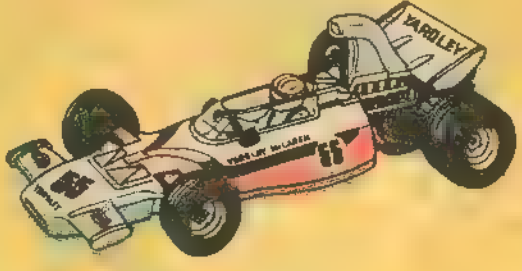

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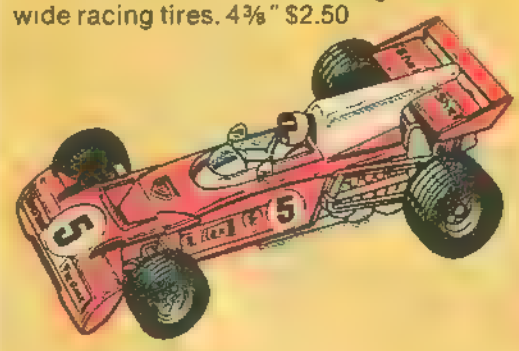

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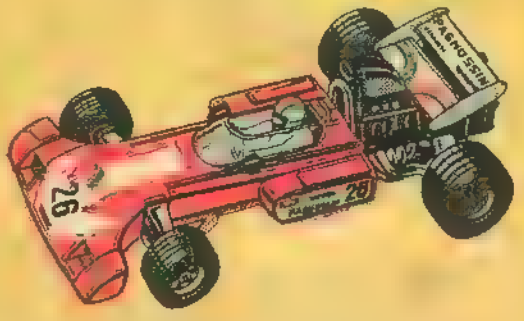

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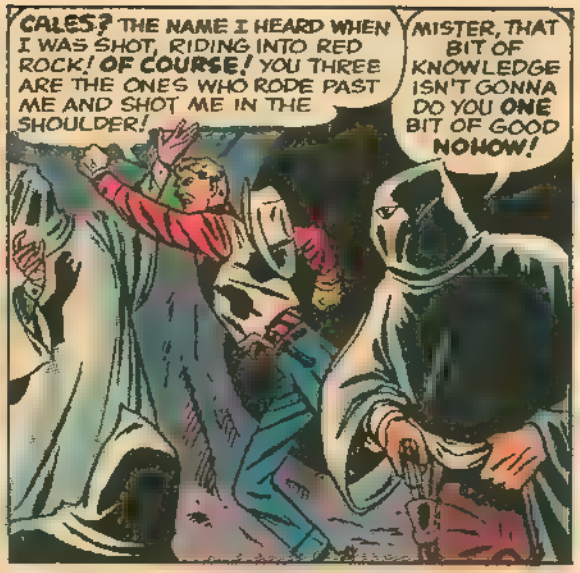
Chapter 2

The SECRET of MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN!

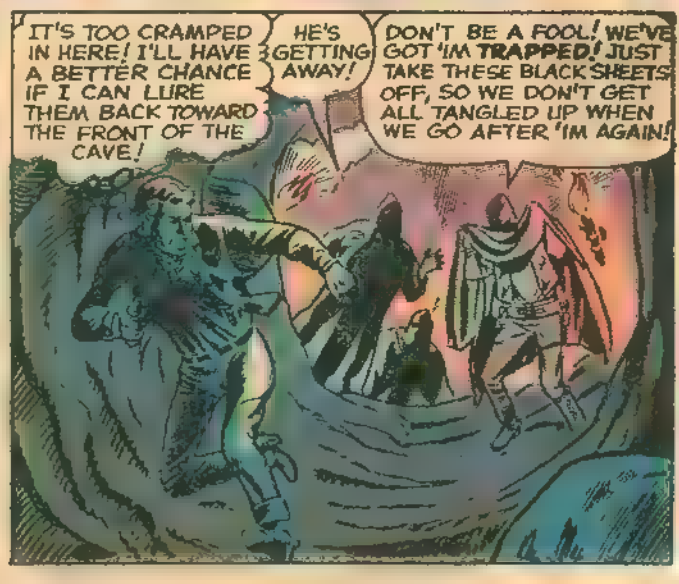
DROP YOUR GUN, MORTAL! IT IS USELESS TO RESIST!
IT--IT'S IMPOSSIBLE! IT CAN'T BE! I DON'T BELIEVE IT! B-BUT I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO FIRE! SOMETHING IS STOPPING ME FROM SHOOTING!

SUDDENLY, PIERCING THE DEEP GLOOM OF THE MYSTERIOUS CAVE, A BLAZING LIGHT FLASHED IN THE KID'S EYES--BLINDING HIM MOMENTARILY!
MY EYES! I CAN'T SEE!
AND, SHORT SECONDS LATER, WHEN THE LIGHT WAS GONE, THE GHOST HAD VANISHED, TOO!
WHAT WAS THAT? WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE? THE GHOST-- IT'S GONE!
STUMBLING, GRAPPLING, GROPING, NEVER LETTING HIS FEAR PREVENT HIM FROM DOING WHAT HAD TO BE DONE, THE KID BEGAN TO SEARCH THE CAVE!
THERE'S GOT TO BE AN ANSWER! NOBODY CAN JUST VANISH! HE COULDN'T JUST COME THRU THE WALL! HE COULDN'T!
AND SUDDENLY, THE KID'S PROBING FINGERS FOUND A BEND IN THE INNER CAVE WALL... CAUTIOUSLY HE WALKED FORWARD, ROUNDING THE BEND, UNTIL...
YOU HAD YOUR WARNING! NOW YOU PERISH!
THREE GHOSTS!
NONE CAN SAY HOW MANY SUPERSTITIOUS COWBOYS FROM THE FRONTIER WEST WOULD HAVE HAD THE COURAGE TO DO WHAT KID COLT DID AT THAT SPLIT SECOND! WITHOUT HESITATING, WITHOUT ANY WARNING, THE VICTIM BECAME THE ATTACKER! KID COLT PLUNGED TOWARD THE FOREBODING FIGURES!
IF I'M GONNA PERISH LIKE YOU SAY, I MIGHT AS WELL GO DOWN FIGHTING!
YOU'RE NO GHOST! THAT WAS A REAL HUMAN CHIN I JUST HIT!
9

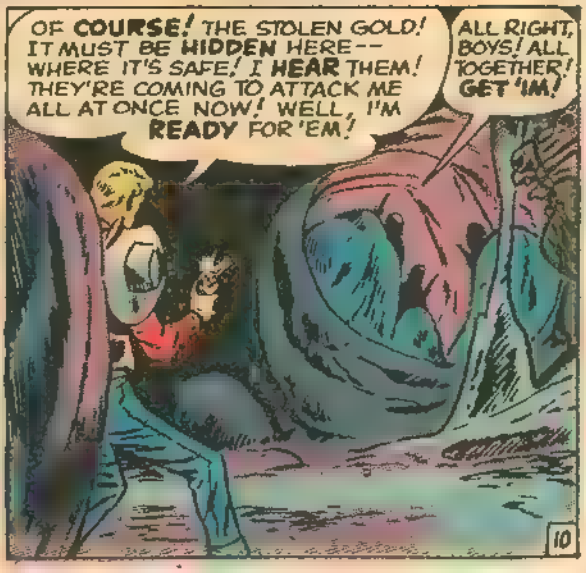
HE'S WISE TO US! DON'T LET 'IM LEAVE HERE ALIVE!
DON'T WORRY, CALEB! HE WON'T!


CALES? THE NAME I HEARD WHEN I WAS SHOT, RIDING INTO RED ROCK! OF COURSE! YOU THREE ARE THE ONES WHO RODE PAST ME AND SHOT ME IN THE SHOULDER!
MISTER, THAT BIT OF KNOWLEDGE ISN'T GONNA DO YOU ONE BIT OF GOOD NOHOW!

YES IT IS! I ALWAYS LIKE TO KNOW WHO I'M FIGHTING!
BLAM!

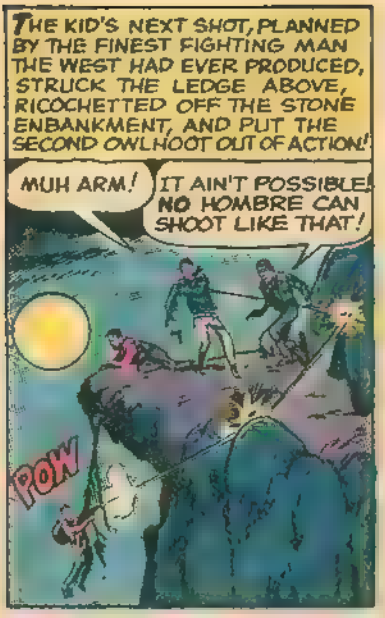

IT'S TOO CRAMPED IN HERE! I'LL HAVE A BETTER CHANCE IF I CAN LURE THEM BACK TOWARD THE FRONT OF THE CAVE!
HE'S GETTING AWAY!
DON'T BE A FOOL! WE'VE GOT 'IM TRAPPED! JUST TAKE THESE BLACK SHEETS OFF, SO WE DON'T GET ALL TANGLED UP WHEN WE GO AFTER 'IM AGAIN!

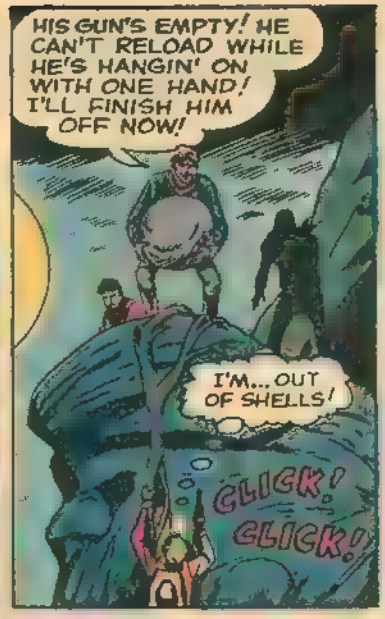
IT MUST HAVE BEEN THEM WHO SILENTLY PUSHED THAT BOULDER -- AND THEY SOMEHOW CAUSED THAT SHADOW ON THE MOUNTAINSIDE! BUT WHY WOULD THEY WANT TO SCARE PEOPLE AWAY FROM HERE?


OF COURSE! THE STOLEN GOLD! IT MUST BE HIDDEN HERE -- WHERE IT'S SAFE! I HEAR THEM! THEY'RE COMING TO ATTACK ME ALL AT ONCE NOW! WELL, I'M READY FOR 'EM!
ALL RIGHT, BOYS! ALL TOGETHER! GET 'IM!

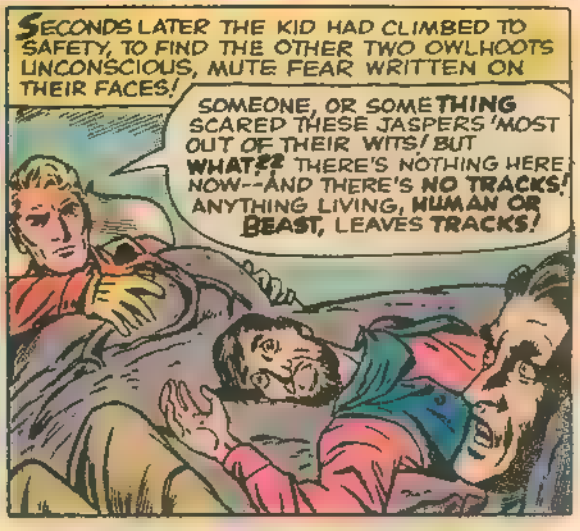
FOR THE FIRST FEW SECONDS, EVERYBODY FIRED BLINDLY, GUESSING AT THEIR FOE, AS THE SHADOWS LENT CONCEALMENT TO THEM ALL!
SO FAR SO GOOD! BUT I CAN'T STAND UP TO THE THREE OF'EM FOREVER IN HERE! IF ONLY I KNEW HOW TO MOVE THIS BLAMED ROCK!
WAIT-- I HAVE IT! STEEL! STEEL BOY!
POW!
PINNNG
BLAM
KA-POW
QUICK, OLD PARD! PUT YOUR HOOVES AGAINST THAT ROCK, AND PUSH! THAT'S IT, STEEL! GOOD FELLA!
KA-POW!
ZZZZNGGG
HE'S GETTIN' OUT OF THE CAVE! HE'LL GET AWAY!
RELAX! THERE'S NOT A CHANCE! THERE'S A SHEER ONE-THOUSAND FOOT DROP OUTSIDE THERE! ONE MISSTEP AND HE'S FINISHED!
CALEB, LOOK! HE MUSTA STEPPED OFF THE EDGE, LIKE YOU SAID! HE AIN'T HERE!
GOOD! THAT'LL SAVE US THE TROUBLE OF GETTIN' RID OF HIM OURSELVES!
GUESS AGAIN, HOMBRES!
THE KID!
THIS IS IT, CALEB!
11

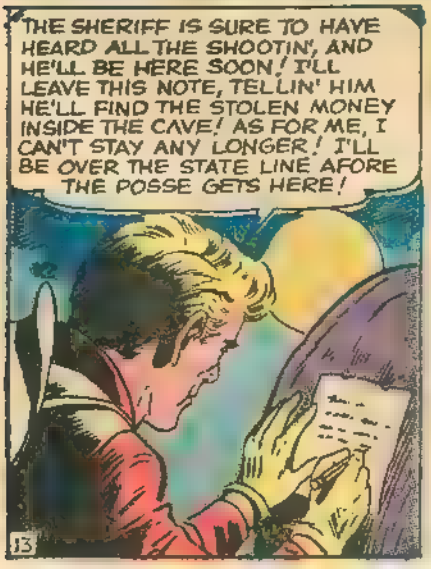
BRAVELY, VALIANTLY, THE ALMOST-LEGENDARY OWLHOOT BATTLED THE THREE DESPERADOES, BUT THE ODDS WERE TOO GREAT EVEN FOR HIS STOUT HEART! HIS RECENTLY WOUNDED SHOULDER COULDN'T STAND THE PUNISHMENT, AND SOON...
THAT'S IT, BOYS! KEEP HAMMERIN' AT HIM!
WE GOT HIM!
THAT VINE! I'VE GOT TO GET IT!!
HE'S SAFE! HE'S HANGING ONTO A VINE DOWN THERE!
WELL, DON'T JUST TALK ABOUT IT! CUT THE VINE!
AND THEN, ONE OF THE MOST FANTASTIC EXHIBITIONS OF MARKSMANSHIP EVER RECORDED TOOK PLACE! WHILE DANGLING A THOUSAND FEET OVER AN ABYSS WITH ONE HAND, SWAYING IN THE MOUNTAIN WIND, IN THE GLOOM OF NIGHT--WITH ONLY THE MOONLIGHT TO GUIDE HIM, KID COLT SHOT THE KNIFE RIGHT OUT OF THE HAND OF THE MAN WHO ATTEMPTED TO CUT THE VINE!
MY KNIFE!
KA-POW!
12


THE KID'S NEXT SHOT, PLANNED BY THE FINEST FIGHTING MAN THE WEST HAD EVER PRODUCED, STRUCK THE LEDGE ABOVE, RICOCHETTED OFF THE STONE ENBANKMENT, AND PUT THE SECOND OWLHOOT OUT OF ACTION!
MUH ARM!
IT AIN'T POSSIBLE! NO HOMBRE CAN SHOOT LIKE THAT!
POW

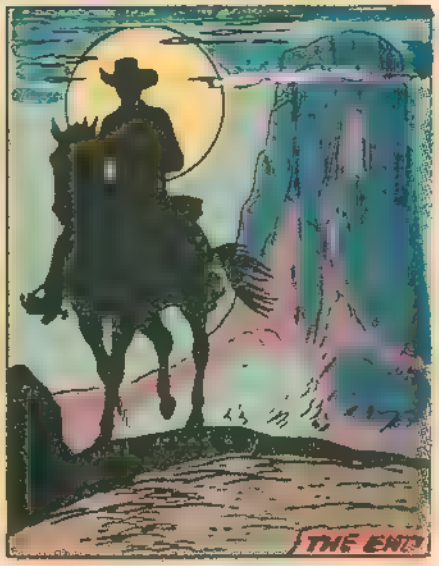


AND THEN, UNEXPECTEDLY, THE STRANGEST THING OF ALL HAPPENED! CALEB DROPPED THE BOULDER HARMLESSLY AT HIS FEET... AS SOMETHING IN THE CAVE CAUSED HIM TO LET OUT AN EAR SPLITTING YELL!
NO-- NOOOOOO!!


SECONDS LATER THE KID HAD CLIMBED TO SAFETY, TO FIND THE OTHER TWO OWLHOOTS UNCONSCIOUS, MUTE FEAR WRITTEN ON THEIR FACES!
SOMEONE, OR SOMETHING SCARED THESE JASPERS 'MOST OUT OF THEIR WITS! BUT WHAT?? THERE'S NOTHING HERE NOW--AND THERE'S NO TRACKS! ANYTHING LIVING, HUMAN OR BEAST, LEAVES TRACKS!


THE SHERIFF IS SURE TO HAVE HEARD ALL THE SHOOTIN', AND HE'LL BE HERE SOON! I'LL LEAVE THIS NOTE, TELLIN' HIM HE'LL FIND THE STOLEN MONEY INSIDE THE CAVE! AS FOR ME, I CAN'T STAY ANY LONGER! I'LL BE OVER THE STATE LINE AFORE THE POSSE GETS HERE!

NO, THE KID COULDN'T STAY ANY LONGER... AND SO HE NEVER DID FIND OUT WHAT HAD TERRIFIED THE OWLHOOTS, AND CAUSED CALEB TO FALL FROM THE LEDGE! BUT IN THE YEARS THAT FOLLOWED, THE KID NEVER FORGOT! AND HE NEVER STOPPED WONDERING WHETHER THE THREE OUTLAWS MIGHT HAVE OUTSMARTED THEMSELVES! THEY TRIED TO CONVINCE PEOPLE THAT MIDNIGHT MOUNTAIN WAS HAUNTED... BUT WHAT IF THEY HAD BEEN-- RIGHT???



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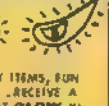

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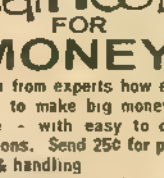

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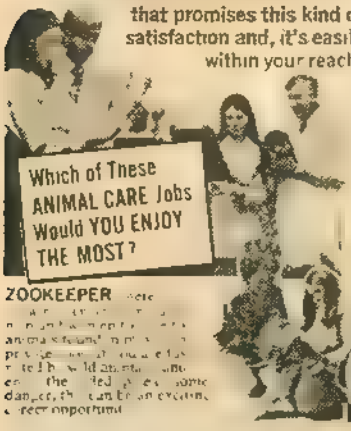

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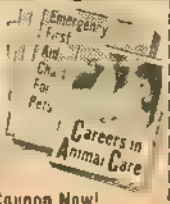

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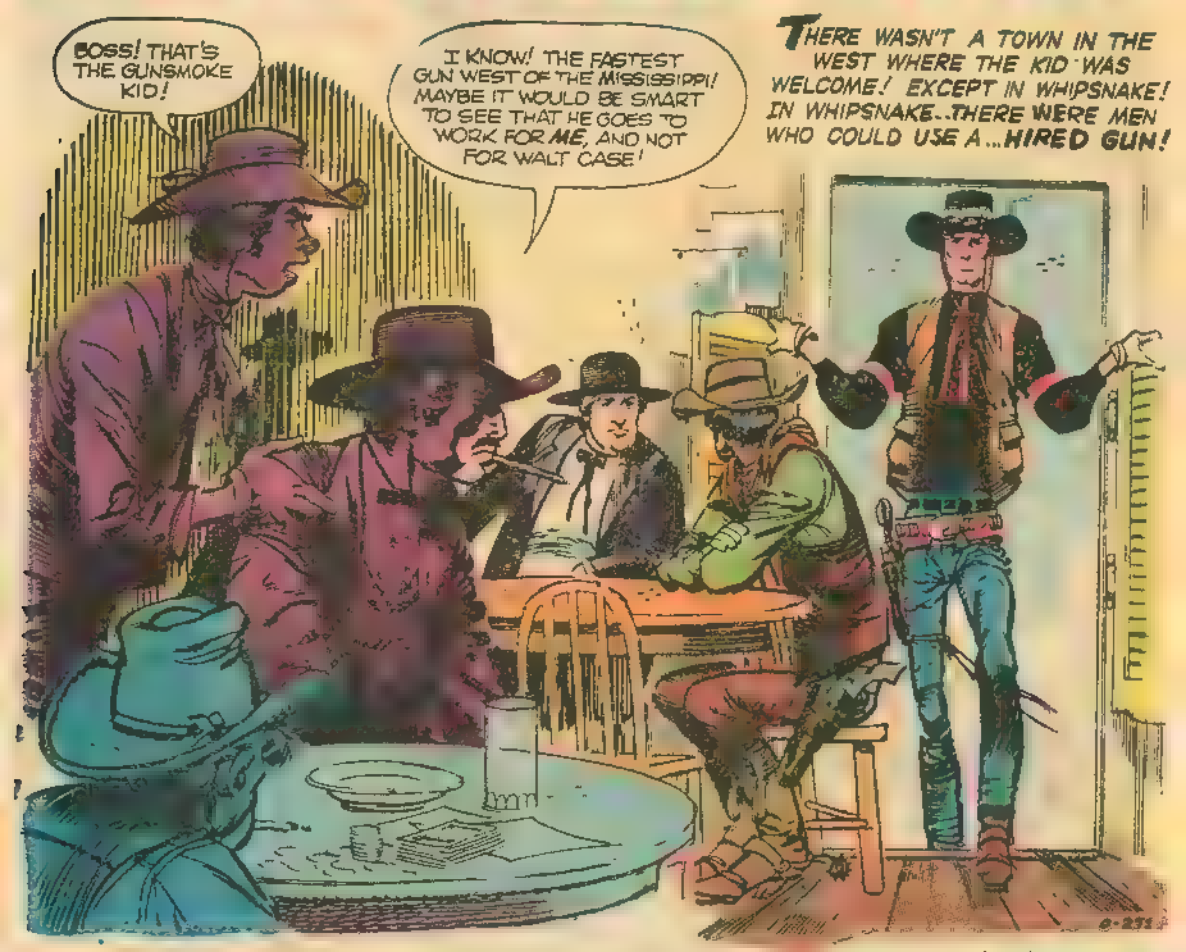
THE GUNSMOKE KID


BOSS! THAT'S THE GUNSMOKE KID!
I KNOW! THE FASTEST GUN WEST OF THE MISSISSIPPI! MAYBE IT WOULD BE SMART TO SEE THAT HE GOES TO WORK FOR ME, AND NOT FOR WALT CASE!
THERE WASN'T A TOWN IN THE WEST WHERE THE KID WAS WELCOME! EXCEPT IN WHIPSNAKE! IN WHIPSNAKE..THERE WERE MEN WHO COULD USE A...HIRED GUN!

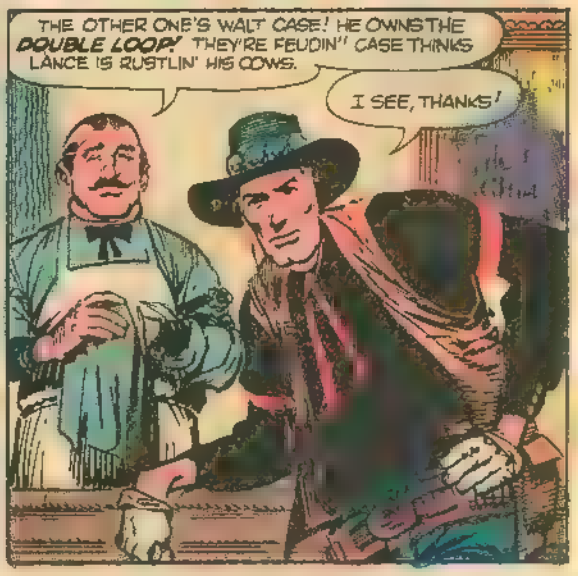
IT HAD HAPPENED MANY TIMES! THE KID WAS FAST, AND HE WAS FOR HIRE! SO..
WELL, WHAT DO YOU SAY, KID? I CAN USE ANOTHER RIDER...
ANOTHER GUN, YOU MEAN! WHATEVER YOU OFFER I'LL DOUBLE IT, LANCE! AND I'LL GUARANTEE A BONUS IF THE KID HAS TO USE HIS GUN..

AND I'LL GUARANTEE TO PUT HIM IN JAIL IF HE DOES! WHIPSNAKE'S GOT NO ROOM FOR HIRED GUNSLINGERS!
YOU TALK PLAIN, SHERIFF! BUT SO FAR I HAVEN'T USED MY GUN! I NEVER DO, IF I CAN HELP IT!

NO? I SUPPOSE YOU JUST WEAR IT FOR AN ORNAMENT, EH? IF YOU'RE SO PEACE-LOVIN', WHY DON'T YOU TAKE IT OFF?
BECAUSE IF I DID, I WOULDN'T LIVE A DAY! SOME HOMBRE WOULD FIGURE THAT KILLING ME WOULD GIVE HIM A REPUTATION!

SO MANY TIMES, THE KID HAD TRIED TO EXPLAIN! BUT WHAT WAS THE USE? GRIMLY HE TURNED HIS BACK! BUT HIS EYES WERE STRANGELY ALERT...

THAT MAN WITH THE MUSTACHE...YOU KNOW HIM LONG, MISTER?
HIM? THAT'S FRANK LANCE! HE OWNS THE CIRCLE 8 SPREAD! HE AND HIS BOYS RODE IN ABOUT A YEAR AGO!



THERE SEEMED TO BE NO REASON FOR THE KID'S ACTIONS, LATER! WHY SHOULD HE FOLLOW WALT CASE?

YOU MEAN YOU WANT TO RIDE FOR ME? OKAY! BUT, WHY ME? IT MEANS TROUBLE...
YOU NEED A GUN AND I'M AVAILABLE! SO I'M RIDING FOR THE DOUBLE LOOP!

THE KID DIDN'T EXPLAIN FURTHER! AND AS FOR TROUBLE... THAT WAS SOMETHING THE KID KNEW ALL ABOUT..

KID! LOOK! THAT'S GOVERNMENT LAND DOWN THERE! OPEN RANGE! BUT THOSE COULD BE DOUBLE LOOP COWS THOSE MEN ARE BRANDIN'!
THERE'S ONE WAY TO FIND OUT! LET'S GO!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

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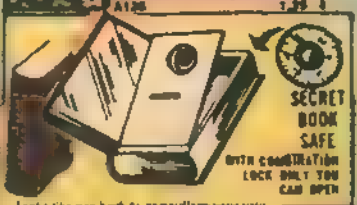

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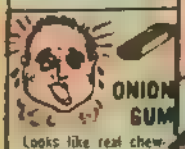

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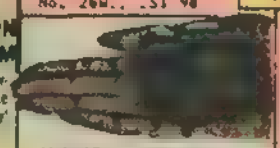

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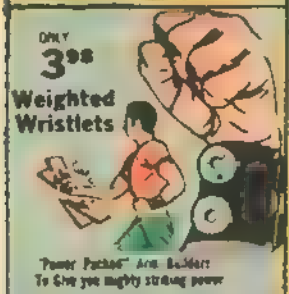

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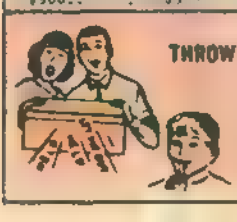

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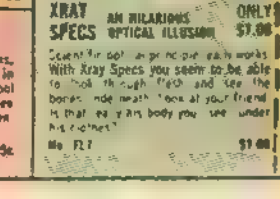

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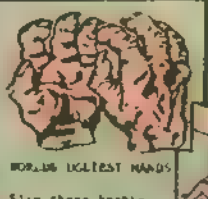

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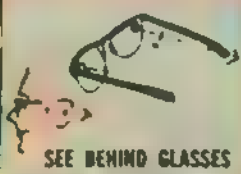

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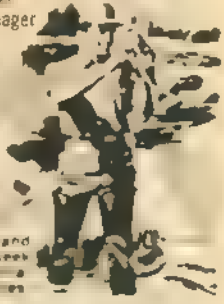

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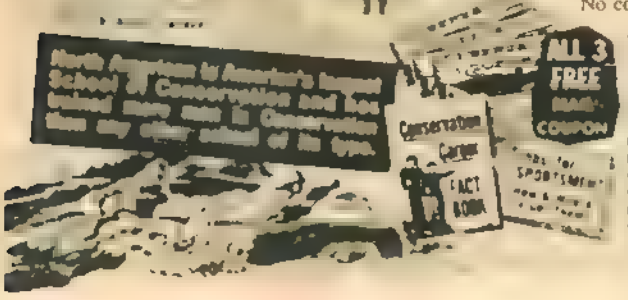

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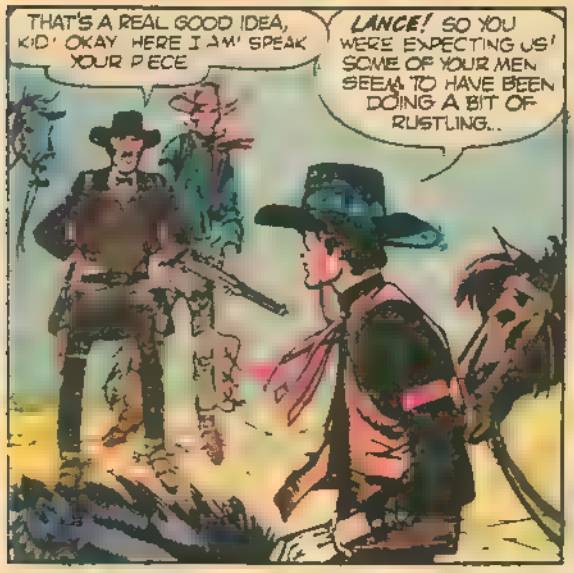
THE RUSTLERS, IF RUSTLERS THEY WERE, VANISHED! BUT THIS WASN'T THE FIRST TRAIL THE KID HAD FOLLOWED..

THIS SETTLES IT! THE TRAIL LEADS DUE SOUTH! RIGHT TOWARD THE CIRCLE 8! THOSE WERE LANCE'S MEN!
MAYBE! WE'LL GO HAVE A TALK WITH MISTER LANCE!

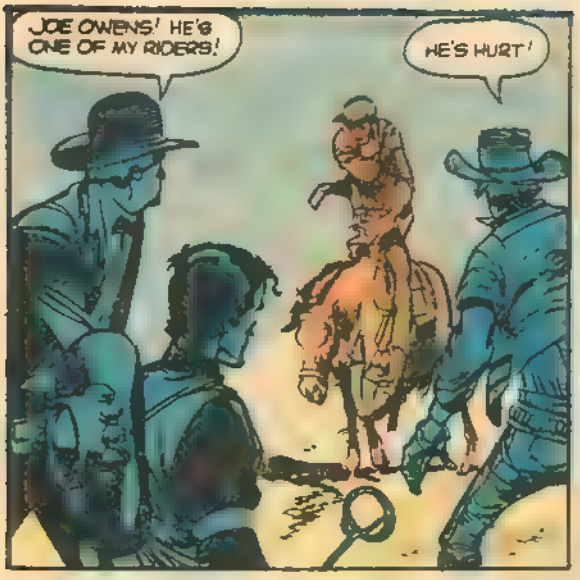

THAT'S A REAL GOOD IDEA, KID! OKAY HERE I AM! SPEAK YOUR PIECE
LANCE! SO YOU WERE EXPECTING US! SOME OF YOUR MEN SEEM TO HAVE BEEN DOING A BIT OF RUSTLING..

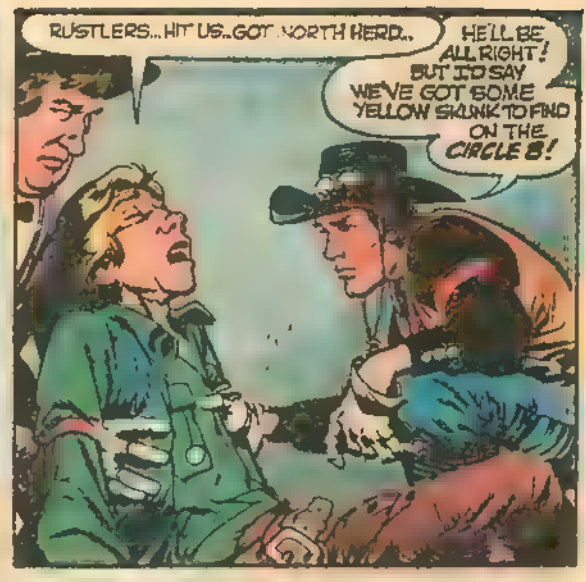
RUSTLING? YOU'VE GOT US WRONG, KID! MY BOYS WERE JUST BRANDIN' SOME UNMARKED STRAYS!
AND ACCORDIN' TO RANGE LAW, UNMARKED STRAYS BELONG TO THE MAN WHO PUTS HIS BRAND ON 'EM, HOMBRE! YOU MADE A LITTLE MISTAKE!

I SEE..TELL ME SOMETHING, LANCE! I ONCE MET A MAN WHO LOOKED LIKE YOU! MORT JUDSON WAS HIS NAME! EVER HEARD OF HIM?
NEVER! AND WHAT IF I HAD?

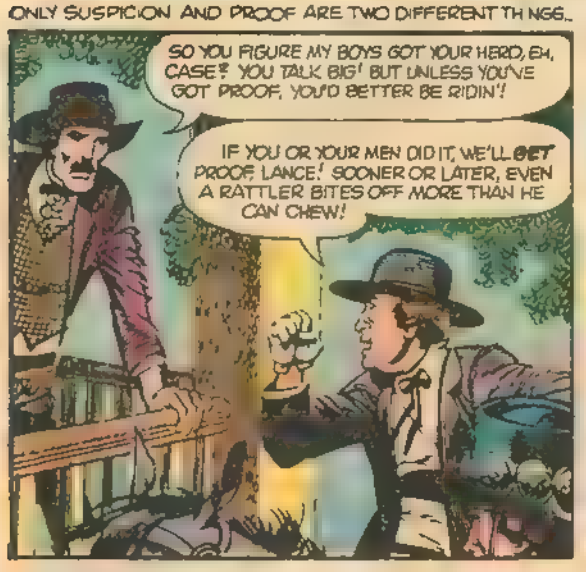
JUST A THOUGHT! BUT JUDSON HAD NO MUSTACHE, AND HE WAS LEFT-HANDED! I GUESS I WAS WRONG!
YOU WERE ABOUT EVERYTHING! SO CLEAR OUT UNLESS YOU WANT TO FIND HOW GOOD I SHOOT WITH MY RIGHT HAND!

BUT TO THAT THE KID SHOOK HIS HEAD! HE WAS BUSY, A FEW DAYS LATER, WHEN TROUBLE STRUCK THE DOUBLE LOOP ONCE AGAIN..



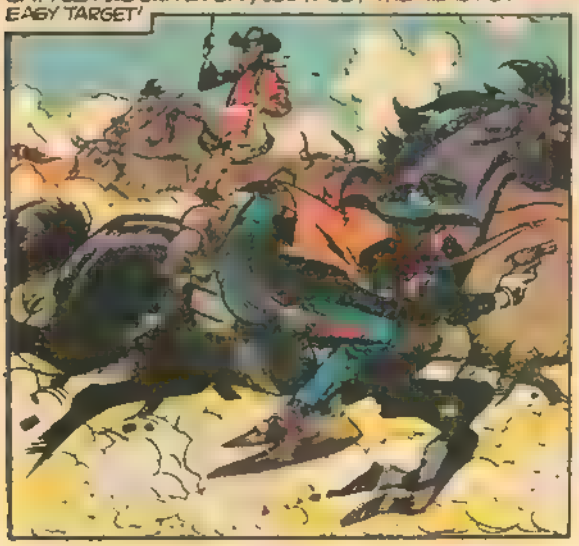


ONLY SUSPICION AND PROOF ARE TWO DIFFERENT THINGS..

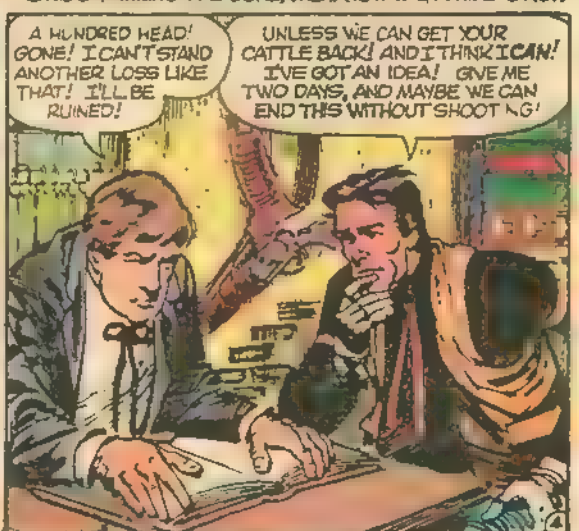

SO YOU FIGURE MY BOYS GOT YOUR HERD, EH, CASE? YOU TALK BIG! BUT UNLESS YOU'VE GOT PROOF, YOU'D BETTER BE RIDIN'!
IF YOU OR YOUR MEN DID IT, WE'LL GET PROOF, LANCE! SOONER OR LATER, EVEN A RATTLER BITES OFF MORE THAN HE CAN CHEW!

AFTERWARD, THE KID IS SILENT! HE RIDES, HE DOES HIS CHORES, AND HE THINKS! BUT THE RUSTLING GOES ON..

CATTLE ARE DRIVEN OFF, LOST! BUT THE KID IS NOT AN EASY TARGET!



THE KID'S THINKING WAS DONE, THEN! NOW WAS A TIME TO ACT!


A HUNDRED HEAD! GONE! I CAN'T STAND ANOTHER LOSS LIKE THAT! I'LL BE RUINED!
UNLESS WE CAN GET YOUR CATTLE BACK! AND I THINK I CAN! I'VE GOT AN IDEA! GIVE ME TWO DAYS, AND MAYBE WE CAN END THIS WITHOUT SHOOTING!

CONTINUED AFTER NEXT PAGE

CAPRICIOUS COMMENTARIES, CAREFULLY COOKED UP TO CONFUSE AND CONFOUND YOU! (Or: Just When You Least Expected It—The Mighty Marvel Checklist's Back in Town!)

ITEM! Know what, friend and neighbor? It's been a good summer—at least from mirthful Marvel's point of view! What with presenting the fifth and sixth of our giant-sized mags to the waiting world (that's SAVAGE TALES and something called CRAZY Magazine, for those of you who haven't been counting), plus the birth of such super-stars as Brother Voodoo (in the pages of the new STRANGE TALES), the Son of Satan (in MARVEL SPOTLIGHT), and Satana (in VAMPIRE TALES #2)—not to mention a couple of regular series at least for the ever-lovin' blue-eyed Thing (in MARVEL FEATURE) and the long suffering Black Panther (in JUNGLE ACTION, no less)—we sorta feels it's been a mighty Marvel summer all the way!

ITEM! Lest you suspect, however, that Marvel's brain-trust intend to start hibernating come the fall, this might be the place to clue you in that the next few weeks will see the dynamic debut of a new comic-mag called—FU MANCHU. Not only that, but this most famous of mystic menaces has a son these days—an awesome offspring who's mastered the martial arts of judo, karate—and *kung fu*! More details next time around, culture-lover!

MARVELOUS MARVEL MINI-ITEMS: Wait'll you catch the great AVENGERS/DEFENDERS free-for-all now going on in the pages of *both* these best-selling titles! When scripter STEVE ENGLEHART plans a knock-down drag-out, he does it up right—and SAL BUSCEMA and BOB BROWN are right in there to keep the action coming! • We're expecting big things, likewise, from the great new team of ROY THOMAS and MIKE PLOOG in the pages of KULL THE DESTROYER! That's right—King Kull's mag has a new name—and when you pick up a copy, you'll see why! • Hey, don't miss the dramatic changes, too, in our sensational SUB-MARINER book! If you thought there was nothing new under the sea that could happen to Namor after so many moons on the scene—check out the next few issues and learn how wrong a Keeper of the Flame can be! • Oh yes, and for those vociferous zillions of you who've been clamoring for it, our chortle-filled *Checklist* returns this selfsame month! And so, without further ado about anything—

MIGHTY MARVEL CHECKLIST
Color Comics Now On Sale!

FANTASTIC FOUR #140: The return of Annihilus—plus more of the startling secret of Franklin B. Richards! A must!

SPIDER-MAN #126: Remember the high-stepping Kangaroo? Well, Spidey'd better—or he'll never live long enough to take a refresher course!

Plus these ready-made classics:

THOR #217 (The Colonizers return—and they're not alone!)—**HULK #169—AVENGERS #117** (The Vision vs. the Silver Surfer!)—**TOMB OF DRACULA #14—HERO FOR HIRE #15** (When Big Ben strikes—watch out, Luke Cage!)—**CAPTAIN AMERICA & THE FALCON #167—DAREDEVIL #105—CONAN THE BARBARIAN #32** ("Flame Winds of Lost Khitai!") — **SUB-MARINER #67—IRON MAN #64—FEAR #18** (The Man-Thing prowls the swamps again!)—**WEREWOLF BY NIGHT #11—WORLDS UNKNOWN #4** ("Arena"—Fred Brown's immortal s-f thriller!)—**GHOST RIDER #3—MARVEL TEAM-UP #15** (Spidey meets Ghost Rider! 'Nuff said?)—**AMAZING ADVENTURES #21** (The War of the Worlds goes on!)—**THE DEFENDERS #10—MARVEL FEATURE #12** (Ben Grimm takes on Iron Man, no less!)—**CREATURES ON THE LOOSE #26** (Thongor, Warrior of Sunken Lemuria!)—**CAPTAIN MARVEL #29—WESTERN TEAM-UP #1** (a newie co-starring the Rawhide Kid and—*guess who!*)—**KULL THE DESTROYER #11—SGT. FURY #116—STRANGE TALES #171** (Brother Voodoo—the Man Who Lived Twice!)—**JUNGLE ACTION #7**—and maybe a mag or two (or twelve) we've forgotten to mention!

Excelsior, effendi!

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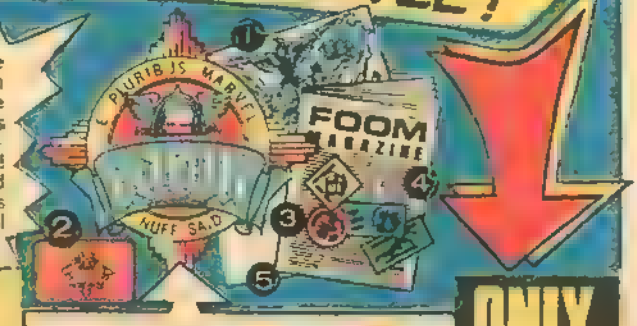
FRIENDS OF OL' MARVEL!

FOOM! The most fabulous, fun filled fan club since Doctor Doom organized the Villains Interested in Latvian Etchings! It's bolder, bigger, better than the MMMS and Marvelmania put together — and what's more, it's gonna be run by all of us merry Marvel mad men ourselves! **Stan (the Man) Lee** is Head Foomer! Jaunty Jim Steranko is Minister of InFOOMation! And Rascally Roy Thomas and your other Bullpen stalwarts will be sharing the fun! But the *real* beneficiary of all these bounteous boons is gonna be — you!



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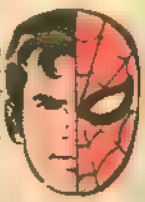
WITH A THREE-DIMENSIONAL SCULPTURED IMAGE OF THE WORLD'S FAVORITE WEB-SWINGER!

MARVEL FANS, ASSEMBLE!

This is for you! You'll blow your mind over Marvel's first official medallion coin! Let it jingle in your pocket and flash it to your friends! Wear it around your neck or webbed onto a key-chain! Display it in its own special holder!

Here's the FANTASTIC part:



Each Spider coin is practically custom-made just for you! Nothing could be more personal — more your very own — because every single one of these beautiful, hand-antiqued, solid-bronze coins is one-of-a-kind — like no other in all the world! EACH HAS ITS OWN REGISTERED SERIAL NUMBER NO TWO CAN EVER BE ALIKE!

This offer is for a LIMITED TIME only!

So, HURRY! Send for your exclusive SPIDER-MAN coin. It's the first of a great series. ORDER IMMEDIATELY FOR LOWEST SERIAL NUMBER — worth much more to collectors . . . especially when future coins are issued!

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Just the first in a great series.
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TODAY—A COIN! TOMORROW—MT. RUSHMORE!

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Send ____ (C) Key Chain(s), 12K gold g.f., at $1.00 each (coin not included) $ ____

Send (D) 24" Neckchain(s), 12K gold g.f., at $1.00 each (coin not included) $ ____

Add only 60¢ for postage and handling to order all you like $ ____

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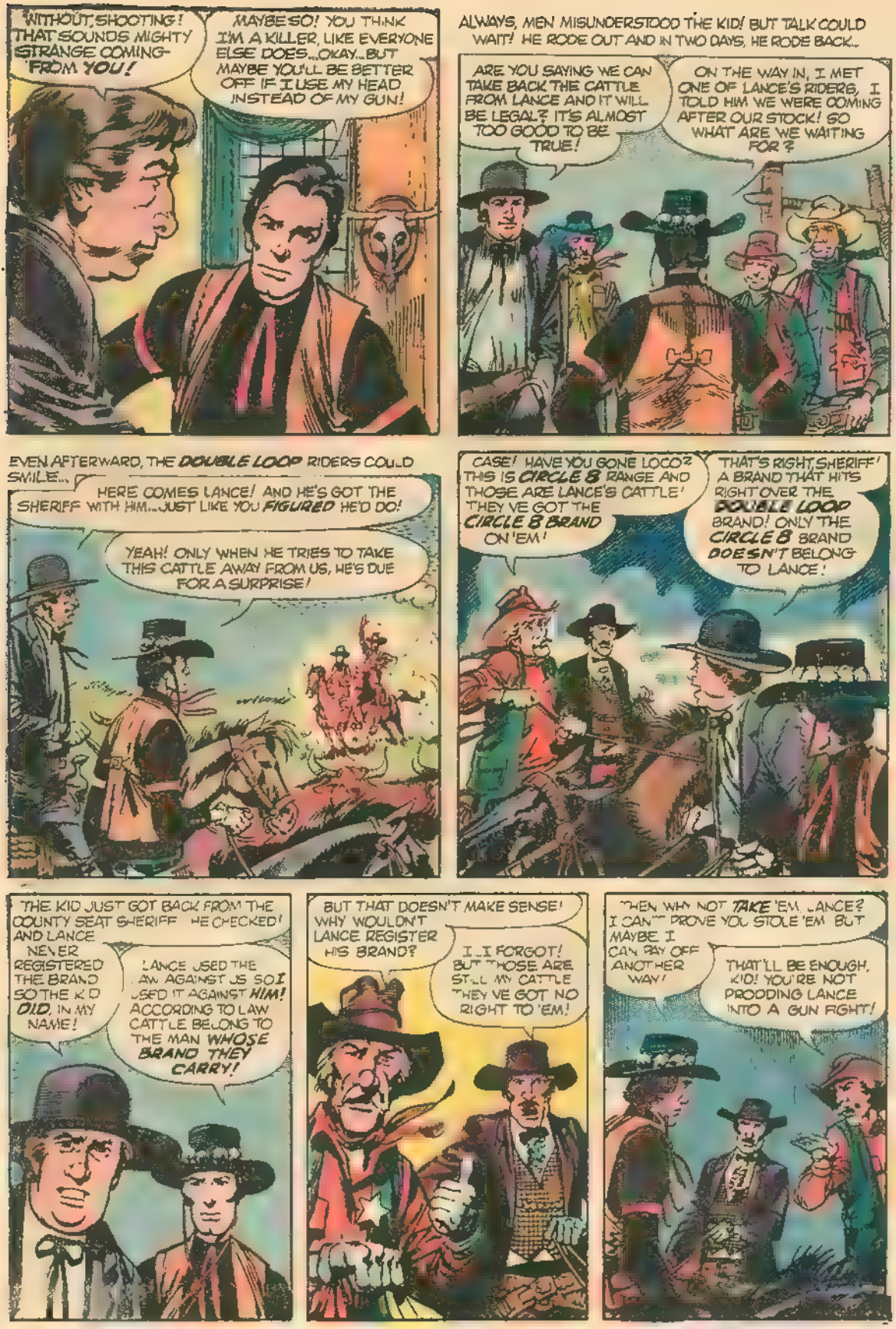
WITHOUT SHOOTING! THAT SOUNDS MIGHTY STRANGE COMING FROM YOU!
MAYBE SO! YOU THINK I'M A KILLER, LIKE EVERYONE ELSE DOES...OKAY...BUT MAYBE YOU'LL BE BETTER OFF IF I USE MY HEAD INSTEAD OF MY GUN!
ALWAYS, MEN MISUNDERSTOOD THE KID! BUT TALK COULD WAIT! HE RODE OUT AND IN TWO DAYS, HE RODE BACK..
ARE YOU SAYING WE CAN TAKE BACK THE CATTLE FROM LANCE AND IT WILL BE LEGAL? IT'S ALMOST TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!
ON THE WAY IN, I MET ONE OF LANCE'S RIDERS, I TOLD HIM WE WERE COMING AFTER OUR STOCK! SO WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?
EVEN AFTERWARD, THE DOUBLE LOOP RIDERS COULD SMILE...
HERE COMES LANCE! AND HE'S GOT THE SHERIFF WITH HIM...JUST LIKE YOU FIGURED HE'D DO!
YEAH! ONLY WHEN HE TRIES TO TAKE THIS CATTLE AWAY FROM US, HE'S DUE FOR A SURPRISE!
CASE! HAVE YOU GONE LOCO? THIS IS CIRCLE 8 RANGE AND THOSE ARE LANCE'S CATTLE! THEY'VE GOT THE CIRCLE 8 BRAND ON 'EM!
THAT'S RIGHT, SHERIFF! A BRAND THAT HITS RIGHT OVER THE DOUBLE LOOP BRAND! ONLY THE CIRCLE 8 BRAND DOESN'T BELONG TO LANCE!
THE KID JUST GOT BACK FROM THE COUNTY SEAT SHERIFF HE CHECKED! AND LANCE NEVER REGISTERED THE BRAND SO THE KID DID, IN MY NAME!
LANCE USED THE LAW AGAINST US SO I USED IT AGAINST HIM! ACCORDING TO LAW CATTLE BELONG TO THE MAN WHOSE BRAND THEY CARRY!
BUT THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE! WHY WOULDN'T LANCE REGISTER HIS BRAND?
I..I FORGOT! BUT THOSE ARE STILL MY CATTLE THEY'VE GOT NO RIGHT TO 'EM!
"THEN WHY NOT TAKE 'EM, LANCE? I CAN'T PROVE YOU STOLE 'EM BUT MAYBE I CAN PAY OFF ANOTHER WAY!
THAT'LL BE ENOUGH, KID! YOU'RE NOT DRAGGING LANCE INTO A GUN FIGHT!

YOU'RE UNDER ARREST! LANCE HASN'T BEEN PROVED GUILTY OF ANYTHING!
HE'S JUST PROVED HIMSELF GUILTY, SHERIFF! DO YOU KNOW WHY HE DIDN'T REGISTER HIS BRAND? HE COULDN'T!

JUDSON WAS LEFT-HANDED! HE MADE HIMSELF OVER, GREW A MUSTACHE, BUT WHEN THE CHIPS WERE DOWN, HE FORGOT TO PUT ON HIS ACT!
YEAH...HE DREW LEFT-HANDED! THAT'S WHY YOU PRODDED HIM! OKAY, I'LL TAKE HIM IN! THEN, I'LL CHECK ON HIM!

A CORNERED COYOTE ALWAYS SQUEALS..

KID, I WANT TO APOLOGIZE! I GUESS YOU HEARD THAT LANCE... JUDSON...CONFESSED! I HAD YOU ALL WRONG...
FORGET IT, SHERIFF! I WAS JUST DOING A JOB!

A JOB? THE SHERIFF WAS PUZZLED! BUT THEN, HOW COULD HE KNOW WHAT WAS IN THE KID'S MIND AS THE KID TOOK THE TRAIL ONCE AGAIN?

A PERSONAL PLEA FROM YOUR BLUSHIN' BULLPEN:

Hey, amigo–

Wanna have your name eternally stored in our mighty Marvel time capsule? Wanna go down in history as a permanent part of Marveldom Assembled? Most of all – wanna do us a favor?

You know how we selflessly strive to bring you the best in story and art. Well, to help us really hit the target, we've got to know who you are–where you are–what you are!

So, how about filling out the mildly magniloquent mini-survey printed below? We made it as painless as possible. Then mail it to the national research firm we've hired to impartially analyze all your answers. Okay? Okay!

Remember–everything you tell us is strictly confidential. You don't even have to sign your name–even if you have one!

Spidey thanks you. The Hulk thanks you. And I thank you.

Stan Lee

MARVEL COMICS SURVEY

1. I got this comic at a . . .

- ☐ Supermarket or chain store
- ☐ Newsstand
- ☐ Gift Shop – Stationery Store
- ☐ Drugstore
- ☐ From a friend (or enemy)
- ☐ Other (fill in) _____

2. How many comics do you buy a month? (Please circle)

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 or more

3. What did you do with your free time last week?

- ☐ Watched TV
- ☐ Read a magazine
- ☐ Listened to records
- ☐ Read a book
- ☐ Went to a movie
- ☐ Played sports
- ☐ Read a paperback book
- ☐ Read a comic magazine

4. How many times do you refer to or reread your copy of this comic? (Please circle)

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 or more

5. How many others (besides yourself) will also read this comic after you have finished reading it?

	Inside Your Household or Dorm	*Outside Your Household*
Parents or other adults	_____	_____
Brothers or Sisters	_____	_____
Friends	_____	_____

6. Do you read the advertisements in this comic?

Yes ☐ No ☐

7. Do you buy things advertised in comics?

Yes ☐ No ☐

8. Which of the following activities do you engage in? (Check as many as you do)

- ☐ Baseball
- ☐ Basketball
- ☐ Fishing
- ☐ Bicycling
- ☐ Camping
- ☐ Tennis
- ☐ Football
- ☐ Play a musical instrument – Which one(s)? _____

9a. How many cars or motorcycles does your family have? (Please check)

1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 or more ☐ None ☐

b. Please indicate the year and make.

Year	*Make*
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

10. Do you have a driver's license?

Yes ☐ No ☐

11. Your age: _____

12. Your sex: Male ☐ Female ☐

13a. Do you have any brothers or sisters?

Yes ☐ No ☐

b. If "Yes," how old are they?

Brothers (Age) _____ _____ _____

Sisters (Age) _____ _____ _____

14. What grade of school are you in?

School	*Year (Please circle)*
College	1st 2nd 3rd 4th graduated
High School	1st 2nd 3rd 4th graduated
Grade School (Indicate year)	_____

CITY: _____

STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

Thanks, loyal one. Consider thyself no-prized! And now – –

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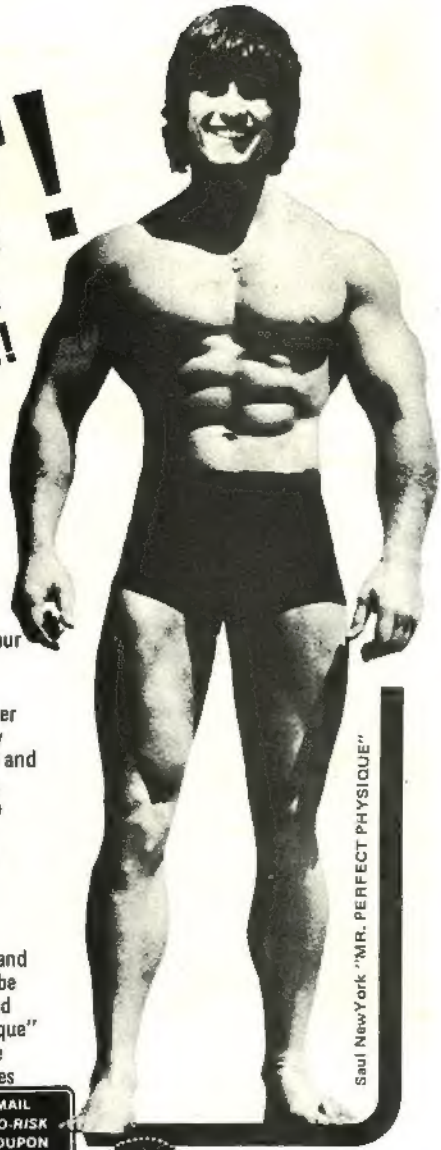

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Yes, you too can have a body like "Mr. Perfect Physique" Saul NewYork (pictured above). He followed our HERCULES II Muscle Building Course for just a few short weeks and gained 3" on each arm, 4" on his chest and beefed up his legs, back and stomach muscles until he reached his present Super Build – a body good enough to win him the World's coveted "Mr. Perfect Physique" title.

Yes, our Muscle Building Secrets contained in HERCULES II can transform your present body into the kind of handsome rippling muscularity that other guys respect and all girls 'flip' over.

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JUST IMAGINE – IN A FEW SHORT WEEKS FROM NOW YOU WILL BE ABLE TO FLEX THOSE BULGING BICEPS AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL GASP IN ASTONISHMENT. Pick up a 6 inch spike, bend it effortlessly and hand it to your buddy. Invite him to straighten it. Knowing average guys, he won't be able to budge it, however red-faced he gets trying. Yes! Our New secret method can change your whole life. Why not follow in the steps of "Mr. Perfect Physique" Remember the sooner you send the order form at the bottom of this page, the sooner you will be helping yourself to a lion's share of rippling, healthy muscles bursting with power and explosive energy.

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"I have gained 22 pounds of muscle in 30 days – I have put 4" on my arms – A million thanks to your New Hercules II program." Bill Canning

"I was a skinny weakling – I just can't describe how much your course has done for me. The results have been amazing" P.G. Roberts

"I feel great – Look 100% better. Can lift my father above my head" J. Scott

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Sirs

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